

REMARKS

Claims 1-31, 48-79, and 117-120 are all the active claims previously pending in the application. New claims 121-144 have been added by this Amendment.

Of the previously pending claims, claims 1 – 2, 11 – 17, 26 – 31, 48 – 49, 51, 59 -65, and 119 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Abedin. The remaining active claims, save claims 7 – 10, 23 – 25, 55 – 58, and 71 – 74 which contain allowable subject matter and were merely objected to, were rejected over the combination of Abedin with a series of secondary references under 35 U.S.C. § 103. By this Amendment, applicant cancels a number of claims, amends claims to incorporate allowable subject matter from one or more of claims 7 – 10, 23 – 25, 55 – 58, and adds new claims which each include allowable subject matter. Thus, the application has been rendered into allowable form.

All amendments and cancellations of claims are without prejudice or disclaimer, and without conceding to the examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant intends to pursue the cancelled claims in one or more continuing applications.

Since the present application contains a fairly large number of claims, the following "roadmap" to the claim cancellations, amendments and additions is provided for the Examiner's convenience:

Claims 1-15, 25, 57, and 64-79 are cancelled.

Independent claim 16 is amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 25.

Independent claim 48 is amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 57.

Dependent claim 58 is amended to depend on amended claim 48, and dependent claims 117, 119, and 120 are amended to depend on amended claim 16.

New independent claim 121 includes all limitations of allowable claim 23, base claim 16, and intervening claims 21 and 22.

New independent claim 127 includes all limitations of allowable claim 24, base claim 16, and intervening claim 21.

New independent claim 133 includes all limitations of allowable claim 55, base claim 48, and intervening claims 53 and 54.

New independent claim 139 includes all limitations of allowable claim 56, base claim 48, and intervening claim 53.

New dependent claims depending from 121, 127, 133, or 139 are added to secure additional patent protection.

In addition, a number of claims are edited for clarification and precision of language.

Inasmuch as all pending claims now incorporate the limitations of at least one claim found to be allowable by the Examiner, is it believed that the application has now been rendered into fully allowable condition.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 10/813,269

Attorney Docket No.: A8700

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 22, 2008